Poll Haven

Local Integrated Resource Plan

Alberta
FORESTRY, LANDS AND WILDLIFE

POLL HAVEN

LOCAL

INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

Approved by the Minister of
Forestry, Lands and Wildlife
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PREFACE

This planning document was prepared by government agencies and public consultants in recognition of the need for improved management of Alberta's lands and resources. It applies only to public lands within the Poll Haven Planning Area, not to private or federal lands.

The plan presents the Government of Alberta's resource management policy for public lands and resources within the area. It is intended to be a guide for resource managers, industry and the public with responsibility or interests in the area, rather than a regulatory mechanism. Resource potentials and opportunities for development are identified with a view to assisting in the economic progress of Alberta. The plan is sufficiently flexible so that all future proposals for land use and development may be considered. No legitimate proposals will be categorically rejected. Energy resource decisions are subject to the application of legal and approved regulatory processes under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Energy. This plan may influence regulatory decisions, but will not result in the categorical approval or rejection of energy proposals. The provincial government is committed to serving Albertans; should a proposal not be in keeping with the provisions of the plan, staff will work with the proponent to explore alternative means for accommodating the proposal in a more appropriate location, either in this planning area or on other public lands. The rejection of any proposal will be done only in writing by the minister or his designate.

A detailed outline for implementation will be provided for this local plan in order to identify the necessary implementation actions and roles. This implementation outline will also provide for the continuing review of the plan so that it may accommodate changing needs and situations. Wherever possible, the private sector will be provided the opportunity to be actively involved in the operational delivery of the plan.

Implementation is subject to the normal budgetary approval process. In establishing overall priorities, opportunities in other planning areas and areas currently outside the planning process will be considered.

While the plan identifies resource potentials and opportunities, the realization of these may require the dedication of major amounts of public funds. The plan will be used on the understanding that any actions required for implementation will only be undertaken as budgetary approvals are given in the normal way. The private sector will be given the first opportunity to provide any development required.

This plan has no legal status and is subject to revisions or review at the discretion of the Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

1.0 INTRODUCTION 1

2.0 THE PLANNING AREA 2

3.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE PLAN 4

4.0 PARTICIPANTS IN PLAN DEVELOPMENT 5

5.0 POLICY AND PLANNING CONTEXT 6
- 5.1 Legislation and Associated Directives 6
- 5.2 A Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes 6
- 5.3 A Coal Development Policy for Alberta 6
- 5.4 White Area/Green Area 6
- 5.5 Plans Under the Planning Act 10
- 5.6 Fish and Wildlife Policy for Alberta 10
- 5.7 Man and the Biosphere Program 10

6.0 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 11
- 6.1 Access 11
- 6.2 Ecological Resources 12
- 6.3 Fisheries Resources 12
- 6.4 Forage Resources 14
- 6.5 Historical Resources 16
- 6.6 Mineral Resources 17
- 6.7 Recreational Resources 18
- 6.8 Timber Resources 18
- 6.9 Water and Watershed Resources 20
- 6.10 Wildlife Resources 21

7.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND AMENDMENT 23

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures Page

1. Poll Haven Planning Area 3
2. Administrative Boundaries 7
3. Areas With Significant Ecological Resources 13
4. Grazing Dispositions 15

Tables

1. Compatible Activities By Land Use Zone 8
2. Planning Team Interpretation of the Intents of Eastern Slopes Policy Zones . . 9

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes (Eastern Slopes Policy), approved by the provincial cabinet in July 1977 and revised in 1984, identifies integrated resource planning under a comprehensive interagency approach as the means for effective management of resources in the Eastern Slopes region of Alberta. Preparation of integrated resource plans by provincial government agencies with responsibility for management of public lands and resources is one form of implementation of the Eastern Slopes Policy.

A land use plan was originally completed for the Poll Haven area in southern Alberta in October 1977 (Energy and Natural Resources -Report Number 51). The plan provided operational direction for resource management in the planning area. Agency responsibilities and referral procedures were clarified. Desirable levels and locations for timber harvesting and domestic grazing were defined. Construction of a primitive campground and an all-weather road in the Tough Creek valley were recommended. Restrictions on off-highway vehicles were proposed and use of the area for non-mechanized recreation such as hunting, hiking and cross-country skiing was supported. Provisions for enhancement of wildlife habitat and watershed protection were included. Methods of funding range improvements were also selected.

Although part of the original Poll Haven plan has been implemented, several provisions of the plan were made obsolete by changing circumstances. Between 1980 and 1983, domestic grazing levels in the planning area were increased by pasture clearing as directed in the original plan. However, increases in unimproved grazing associated with timber harvesting did not occur because demand for timber was lower than expected. The planning area was divided into Green and White areas in 1983 as directed in the plan. The proposed all-weather trunk road and primitive campground were not developed because of low demand. A detailed plan for domestic grazing in the Green Area of the planning area was completed in 1980. The Alberta Forest Service completed plans for timber management and a campground, and identified a snowmobile use corridor. Infestation of approximately 1200 ha (2965 ac.) of timber by mountain pine bark beetle also had a significant effect on the planning area.

The Southern Regional Resource Management Committee identified the need to update the format and content of the original Poll Haven plan, and requested a major review of the plan in January 1985. Revision of the plan was initiated as part of the 1985/86 planning program and a draft terms of reference was prepared to guide preparation of the new plan. This was reviewed by the public and finalized in January 1986. Collection and analysis of a wide variety of resource data occurred in 1986. The data were used to develop resource management objectives and guidelines that were included in the plan. The plan was reviewed by the public and a variety of government agencies before approval by the Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife.

2.0 THE PLANNING AREA

The Poll Haven planning area covers 80 km^2 (31 sq. mi.) of rolling foothills southwest of Cardston in the southwestern corner of Alberta (Figure 1). Elevation increases from 1372 m (4501 feet) above sea level in the northeast, to 1829 m (6001 feet) above sea level in the uplands of the Mokowan Butte along the western edge of the planning area. Tough and Lee creeks flow from the southwest to the northeast across the central part of the planning area. Lee Creek originates in Montana. Vegetation cover varies from uniform coniferous forests at high altitudes, to mixed coniferous and deciduous stands at intermediate altitudes, to almost pure deciduous stands at lower altitudes. The planning area is forested except for small natural clearings and areas that have been cleared for range improvement.

The planning area is bordered by Waterton Lakes National Park to the west, Montana to the south, Glacier National Park in the southwest and the Castle River Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan to the northwest. The planning area is within the Municipal District of Cardston. The Blood Indian Reserve No. 148A is approximately 1.6 km (1 mi.) to the west with the Police Outpost Provincial Park the same distance to the east. There are 54.4 km^2 (21 sq. mi.) of public land and 25.9 km^2 (10 sq. mi.) of private land in the planning area.

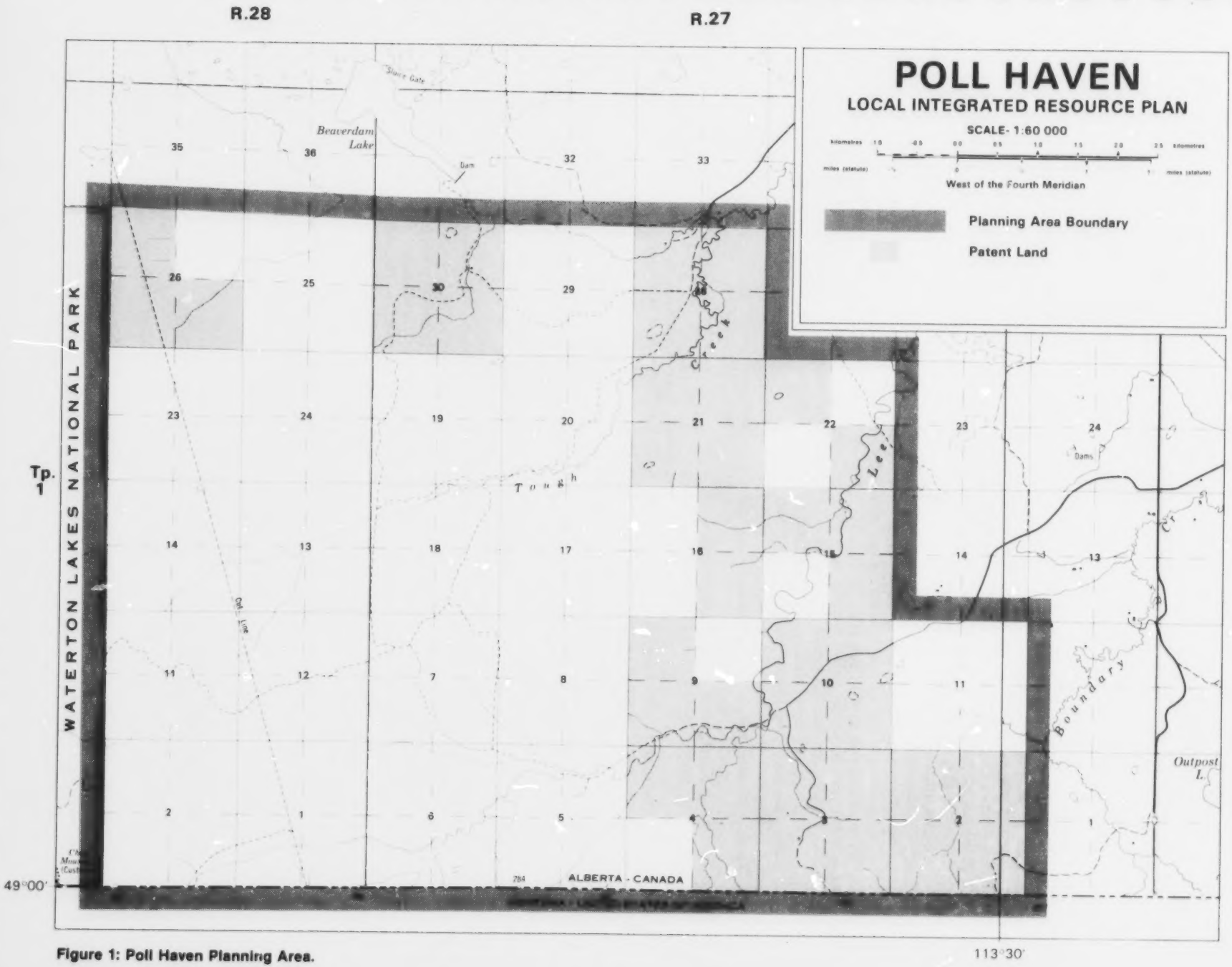

Figure 1: Poll Haven Planning Area.

3.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of the Poll Haven Local Integrated Resource Plan is to provide direction for the management and use of public resources in the planning area to maximize benefits for Albertans. A resource is defined as anything that society perceives as having value, including items traditionally considered to be resources such as land, timber and minerals, as well as less tangible resources without an obvious market value such as unique ecosystems and recreational opportunities. Generally, the plan maximizes benefits by specifying where, when and how resources and resource uses will be managed.

The plan provides a framework for developing and assessing future actions by provincial government agencies and the private sector. It provides government with direction and supporting information for:

(a) development and implementation of programs;

(b) review and granting of dispositions and approvals for private sector development and use of public resources; and

(c) allocation of manpower and funds to programs and projects within existing budgets.

The plan provides the private sector with:

(a) a clear statement of government intentions for resource management in the planning area; and

(b) opportunities for resource development that are compatible with government policy and conditions under which such development could occur.

Direction in the plan is provided by:

1. clarifying and explicitly stating resource management objectives;

2. developing guidelines for achieving stated resource management objectives;

3. refining the Eastern Slopes Policy zoning boundaries in the planning area; and

4. resolving identified resource management issues.

The Poll Haven local integrated resource plan uses a working map scale of 1:15 000. The plan deals with public lands and resources only; it does not address or apply to private land or public resources under private land. However, the effects of land uses on private land and in areas adjacent to the planning area have been considered.

4.0 PARTICIPANTS IN PLAN DEVELOPMENT

A wide range of opportunities to participate in development of the Poll Haven plan was provided to ensure comprehensive consideration of resource values and to increase commitment to the final plan. Representatives of provincial and federal government agencies, regional and municipal authorities, organized public interest groups and the general public were all involved.

A planning team approach is used in the development of integrated resource plans. The planning team consists of representatives from government agencies having major responsibilities or interests in resource management in the planning area. The Poll Haven planning team had representatives from the following divisions of the Department of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife:

1. Alberta Forest Service
2. Fish and Wildlife Division
3. Public Lands Division

Planning team members were field-level resource managers with specific knowledge of resources in the Poll Haven planning area. The team was small in the interests of efficiency and effectiveness.

Provincial government resource management agencies have the option of becoming consultants to the planning team if their interests in a planning area are not significant enough to justify appointing a representative to the planning team. Consultants to the planning team are informed about the progress of the plan and have the opportunity to comment when issues relating to their jurisdiction are discussed and when planning documents are produced.

Representatives of the following provincial government departments were consultants to the Poll Haven plan:

1. Agriculture
2. Culture and Multiculturalism
3. Environment
4. Energy
5. Tourism
6. Transportation and Utilities

Representatives of Waterton Lakes National Park, the municipal district of Cardston, the town of Cardston and the Oldman River Regional Planning Commission also acted as consultants and provide comments on planning products.

A public involvement program was conducted during plan development to provide the public with information and opportunities to comment on planning products. Specific objectives of public involvement are:

1. To use the knowledge of residents in evaluating and improving the resource data base.

2. To obtain public opinion on issues that should be addressed and resource management direction that should be included in the plan.

3. To build public support for the plan.

4. To inform the public about the potential impact of resource management decisions.

5. To inform government officials and politicians about public opinion regarding the plan.

Opportunities for public involvement were provided during preparation of the terms of reference, and public review of the draft plan occurred. At the initial stages of plan development, an attempt was made to contact all individuals and groups who were interested in participating. Subsequent effort concentrated on those parties that indicated an ongoing interest.

5.0 POLICY AND PLANNING CONTEXT

Resource management activities in the Poll Haven planning area are guided by numerous government directives including legislation, policies and regulations. These directives provide the context for development of the Poll Haven Integrated Resource Plan.

5.1 Legislation and Associated Directives

A variety of resource management legislation and associated regulations apply throughout Alberta and were considered during development of the Poll Haven plan. Examples of such legislation are the Public Lands Act, Water Resources Act, Forests Act, Wildlife Act and Historic Resources Act. In addition, there are numerous government directives such as orders-in-council and ministerial orders, that guide resource management activities.

5.2 A Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes

A Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes - Revised 1984 provides direction for resource management and planning for the entire Eastern Slopes Policy Region, including a large part of the Poll Haven planning area (Figure 2). The Eastern Slopes Policy is split into a policy component and a regional plan.

The policy section identifies provincial government intentions for the area including opportunities and priorities for resource management. Watershed management and the provision of benefits from recreation and tourism are high priorities. Other priorities are maintenance of the unique character of the Eastern Slopes, resource management that is consistent with principles of conservation and environmental protection, management of renewable resources over the long term, integrated resource planning and public involvement.

The regional plan for the Eastern Slopes provides more specific resource management direction in the form of regional resource management objectives, land use zoning and resource management guidelines. Objectives are provided for 10 resource sectors, and eight regional land use zones are used to designate areas for varying degrees of protection, resource management and development. The regional plan contains a Table of Compatible Activities (Table 1) that categorizes representative resource use activities according to their compatibility with the intent of each land use zone. The general intents of the zones are presented in Table 2. The Poll Haven local plan provides more specific resource management direction than the Eastern Slopes Policy, and the zoning in this plan takes precedence over the regional zoning.

5.3 A Coal Development Policy for Alberta

A Coal Development Policy for Alberta (Coal Policy) released in 1976, guides the exploration and development of coal resources throughout the province. Under the Coal Policy, exploration and development of coal deposits are permitted only under strict control to ensure environmental protection and satisfactory reclamation of disturbed land. The province is divided into four categories of suitability for exploration and development. The Poll Haven planning area is mainly in Category 1 where no exploration or commercial development of coal resources is permitted. An area along the eastern edge of the planning area is in Category 4, where coal exploration and development may be permitted under appropriate control.

5.4 White Area/Green Area

The Poll Haven planning area is split into White Area and Green Area portions by Order-in-Council under the Public Lands Act. Suitable public land in the White Area may be made available for settlement or agricultural development. The Green Area contains lands that are not available for settlement or agricultural development other than grazing.

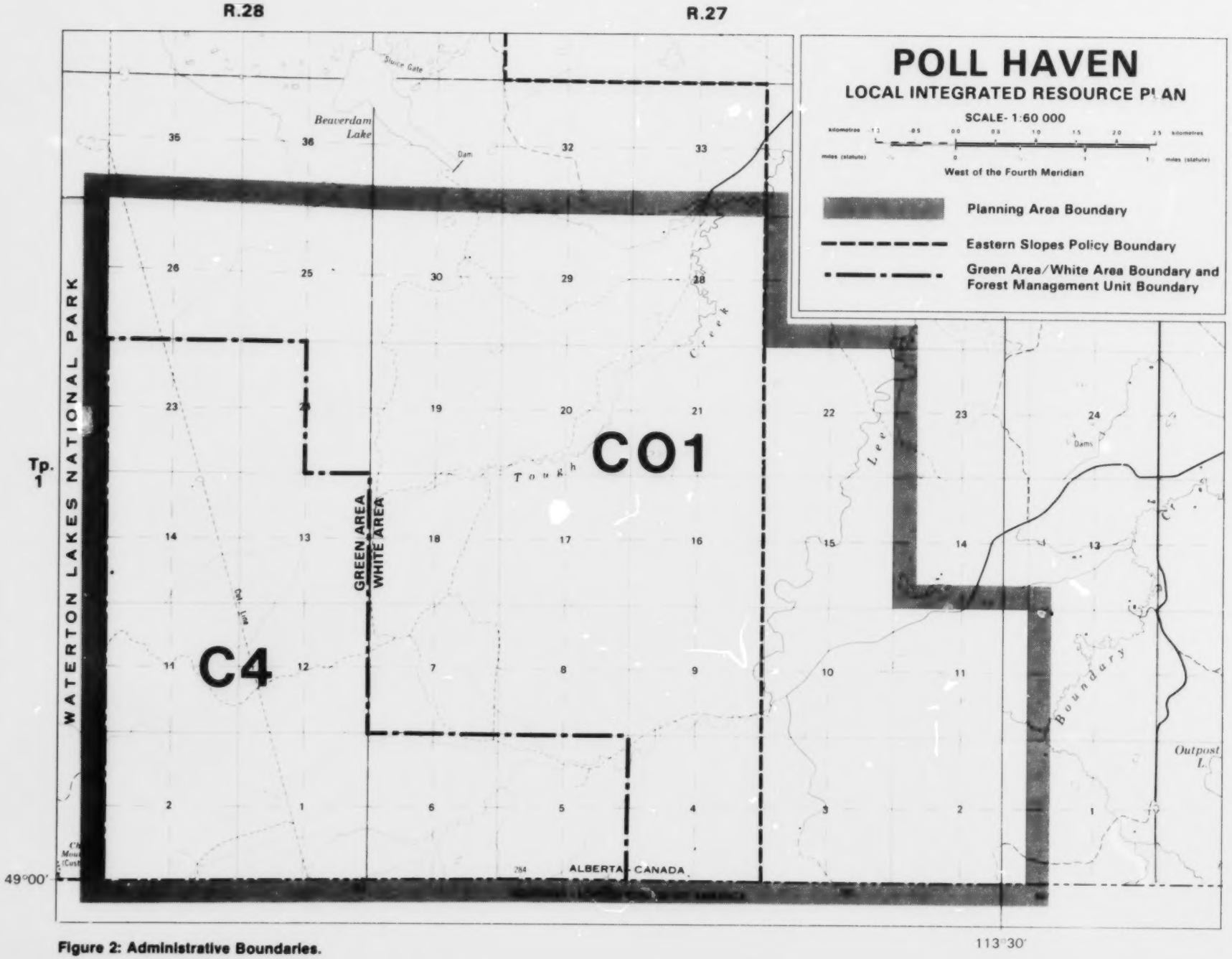

Figure 2: Administrative Boundaries.

TABLE 1. COMPATIBLE ACTIVITIES BY LAND USE ZONE [1]

ACTIVITY	ZONE							
	1 PRIME PROTECTION	2 CRITICAL WILDLIFE	3 SPECIAL USE	4 GENERAL RECREATION	5 MULTIPLE USE	6 AGRICULTURE	7 INDUSTRIAL	8 FACILITY
Non-motorized recreation	■	■	□	■	■	■	□	■
Fishing	■	■	□	■	■	■	□	■
Hunting	■	■	□	□	■	■	□	×
Scientific study	■	□	□	□	■	■	■	■
Trapping	■	□	□	□	■	■	×	×
Trails; non-motorized	□	□	□	■	■	■	□	■
Transportation and utility corridors	□	□	□	□	■	■	■	■
Primitive camping	□	□	□	■	■	■	×	×
Intensive recreation	□	×	□	■	■	□	□	■
Off-highway vehicle activity	×	□	□	□	■	■	■	■
Logging	×	□	□	□	■	■	■	□
Domestic grazing	×	□	□	□	■	■	×	□
Petroleum and natural gas exploration and development	×	□	□	□	■	■	■	□
Coal exploration	×	□	□	□	■	■	■	×
Coal development	×	□	□	□	■	■	■	×
Mineral exploration and development	×	□	□	□	■	■	■	×
Serviced camping	×	□	□	■	■	□	□	■
Commercial development	×	×	□	□	□	□	□	■
Industrial development	×	×	□	×	■	□	■	□
Residential subdivisions	×	×	□	□	□	■	□	■
Cultivation	×	×	□	×	□	■	□	□

■ Compatible Use -Uses that are considered to be compatible with the intent of a land use zone under normal guidelines and land use regulations.

□ Permitted Use -Uses that may be compatible with the intent of a land use zone under certain circumstances and under special conditions and controls where necessary.

× Not-Permitted Use -Uses that are not considered to be compatible with the intent or capabilities of a land use zone.

These activities are only representative of the range of activities that occur in the Eastern Slopes. For these and any other activities, the possibility of whether they should or should not take place in a particular area must always be measured against the fundamental management intentions for that zone. Since economic opportunities are not all known in advance, site-specific developments may be considered in any zone.

[1] From "A Policy for Resource Management for the Eastern Slopes-Revised 1984"

Table 2

PLANNING TEAM INTERPRETATION OF THE INTENTS OF THE EASTERN SLOPES POLICY ZONES

#	Zone	INTENT OF THE ZONE
1	Prime Protection	To preserve environmentally sensitive terrain and valuable aesthetic resources.
2	Critical Wildlife	To protect specific fish and wildlife populations by protecting aquatic and terrestrial habitat that is crucial to the maintenance of those populations.
3	Special Use	To recognize historical resources, scientific research areas and lands that have unique management requirements or legislative status, or that cannot be accommodated elsewhere.
4	General Recreation	To retain a variety of natural environments to serve as a focus for a wide range of outdoor recreational activities.
*5	Multiple Use	To provide for the management and development of the full range of available resources, while meeting long-term objectives for watershed management and environmental protection.
6	Agriculture	To designate lands that are currently used or are considered suitable for cultivation or improved grazing.
7	Industrial	To recognize existing or approved industrial operations.
8	Facility	To recognize existing or approved settlement and commercial development areas.

* All public land in the Poll Haven planning area was designated Multiple Use - Zone 5.

The Green Area/White Area boundary was realigned in 1983 as recommended in the original Poll Haven plan (Figure 2).

5.5 Plans Under the Planning Act

The Planning Act provides for the planning and regulation of land use and the pattern of human settlement in Alberta. Most private development, whether on private or public land, is under the jurisdiction of the act and plans prepared under the Planning Act are considered legal documents. The Oldman River Regional Plan and the Municipal District of Cardston General Municipal Plan apply to the Poll Haven planning area. The Crown is not bound by the Planning Act.

Integrated resource plans differ in that they apply only to provincial public lands and resources and have no legal status. However, the plans represent provincial government policy and government agencies implement the provisions of the plan under the authority of their enabling legislation.

Co-ordination and co-operation between provincial resource management agencies and local authorities are essential to ensure that the two types of plans are consistent and supportive of one another.

5.6 Fish and Wildlife Policy for Alberta

The Fish and Wildlife Policy for Alberta was approved by Cabinet in October 1982 and provides general direction regarding outdoor recreation, wildlife resources, fisheries resources and regulatory aspects of fish and wildlife use. The most significant components of the policy are a provincial fish and wildlife outdoor recreation plan and an assessment of the status of fisheries and wildlife resources. Fish and wildlife management objectives for the Poll Haven area were developed to achieve a portion of provincial objectives for these resources.

5.7 Man and the Biosphere Program

Waterton Lakes National Park has been designated an international biosphere reserve by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) under the Man and the Biosphere Program. Biosphere reserves are representative examples of the major landscapes of the world and are intended to promote a balanced relationship between people and their natural environment. The Poll Haven planning area is in the zone of administrative cooperation surrounding the core of the reserve. "The zone of cooperation comprises land adjacent to the core where a variety of resource uses may take place such as forestry, ranching, farming or oil and gas extraction" (from Man and the Biosphere pamphlet on Waterton Biosphere Reserve). Various agencies and landowners have agreed to work together to deal with common resource management issues in the zone. Several provincial government resource management agencies are represented on a technical advisory committee established under the program.

6.0 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The resource management strategy for the Poll Haven planning area consists of a set of resource management objectives and guidelines as well as Eastern Slopes Policy zoning. A resource management objective is a description of a desirable condition or state for a resource or resource use that can be achieved through management. A resource management guideline is a description of a management action or a condition on resource use that contributes to achievement of resource management objectives.

The Poll Haven Plan uses the zoning categories and the Table of Compatible Activities from the Eastern Slopes Policy to provide resource management direction. The planning team interpreted the general intents of the Eastern Slopes Policy zones (Table 2) and modified the zoning boundaries in the planning area. Rather than creating an entirely new zoning scheme for the small portion of the planning area outside the Eastern Slopes Policy boundary, the Eastern Slopes zoning categories were used. Zoning does not apply to privately owned land.

After considering the eight available zones, the planning team zoned the entire planning area Multiple Use - Zone 5. The intent of Multiple Use zoning is to provide for the management and development of the full range of available resources, while meeting long-term objectives for watershed management and environmental protection.

The following set of objectives and guidelines are arranged alphabetically by resource sector.

6.1 Access

Discussion

Road access in the planning area is relatively limited. Dry-weather vehicle access is available to the northern and eastern portions of the planning area. A logging road has been built into the Lee Creek valley to facilitate mountain pine beetle timber salvage operations. Numerous trails and seismic lines criss-cross the planning area. Although some of these are suitable for four-wheel drive vehicles, most are useable by all-terrain vehicles only. Horses are used for range patrols within the Poll Haven Community Pasture.

Objectives

1. To coordinate access development to minimize negative effects on resources and resource users.

2. To meet the access requirements of resource users where appropriate.

Guidelines

1. The new haul road that was developed along the eastern boundary of the community pasture to facilitate forest harvesting operations in the Lee Creek drainage will be left open for recreational access. The municipal district of Cardston has agreed to provide minimum maintenance of the road. Temporary feeder roads will be closed and reclaimed following completion of logging operations in the area.

2. Vehicle access to cutblocks should be eliminated to permit maximum use of available habitat by ungulates.

3. An access management plan will be initiated to define an access network suitable for recreational off-highway vehicle use. The access management plan will be subject to review by interested government resource management agencies, local authorities, public interest groups and the general public.

4. The Poll Haven Grazing Association, in cooperation with other interested residents of the area, should implement a range patrol program to address problems with illegal or irresponsible activities within the Poll Haven Community Pasture.

5. Open communication between Waterton Lakes and Glacier national parks and the provincial government is required to ensure that resource management and use, particularly access development, in the Poll Haven Community Pasture and adjacent parks are compatible.

6.2 Ecological Resources

Discussion

Ecological resources are unique or representative ecological features identified within the planning area. Although there are no areas within Poll Haven that have been protected by legislation, several areas with significant ecological resources have been identified (Figure 3). Further study of these broad areas may identify specific sites that require protection.

The highest point of Mokowan Butte is located in the western portion of the planning area. This area is part of the nationally significant Waterton Lakes ecosystem and contains habitat for rare plants and uncommon birds. The area is diverse with rock outcrops, lush flower meadows, lodgepole pine stands, Douglas fir stands and aspen woodlands. Mokowan Butte is also significant geologically as one of the best examples in Canada of the Flaxville Plain and pre-Wisconsin paleosol soils.

The Paine-Beaverdam lakes area is an extensive area of foothills parkland that extends into the northern portion of the planning area. The area provides nationally significant habitat for numerous rare or uncommon plants and animals.

The valleys of Tough and Lee creeks are part of an extensive area of montane habitat and also provide key deer habitat.

Objectives

1. To preserve selected unique or representative natural ecosystems or features.

2. To provide for the recreational, scientific and educational use of ecological resources.

Guideline

1. Further inventory of the areas identified in Figure 3 will be conducted to define clearly the ecologically significant areas. Evaluation of the Mokowan Butte area occurred during the summer of 1988.

6.3 Fisheries Resources

Discussion

Fisheries resources in the planning area are found in Lee Creek and its tributary, Tough Creek. Bull trout, mountain whitefish and hybrid rainbow and cutthroat trout are found in Lee Creek. Trout are infrequent residents of Tough Creek because of its intermittent flow. The inconsistent streamflow may limit populations in both creeks. Lee Creek is subject to periodic severe fluctuations in flow that adversely affected fish habitat in 1975. More recently, drought conditions during the summer of 1985 resulted in a complete absence of surface flow in some reaches of the creek. Augmenting fisheries production capabilities through headwater storage may be a possibility.

Extensive use of streamside areas by domestic livestock has contributed to unstable banks along parts of Lee Creek. Watershed protection is required to protect fisheries and downstream domestic water sources, particularly for the town of Cardston.

Beaver ponds on private land in the planning area are suitable for fish stocking. Other suitable ponds may be present on public land.

Objectives

1. To maintain and/or increase the abundance, distribution and diversity of fisheries resources.

2. To maintain and/or increase the quality and quantity of aquatic and riparian habitat necessary for continued fish production.

3. To maintain and/or increase opportunities for recreational use of fisheries resources.

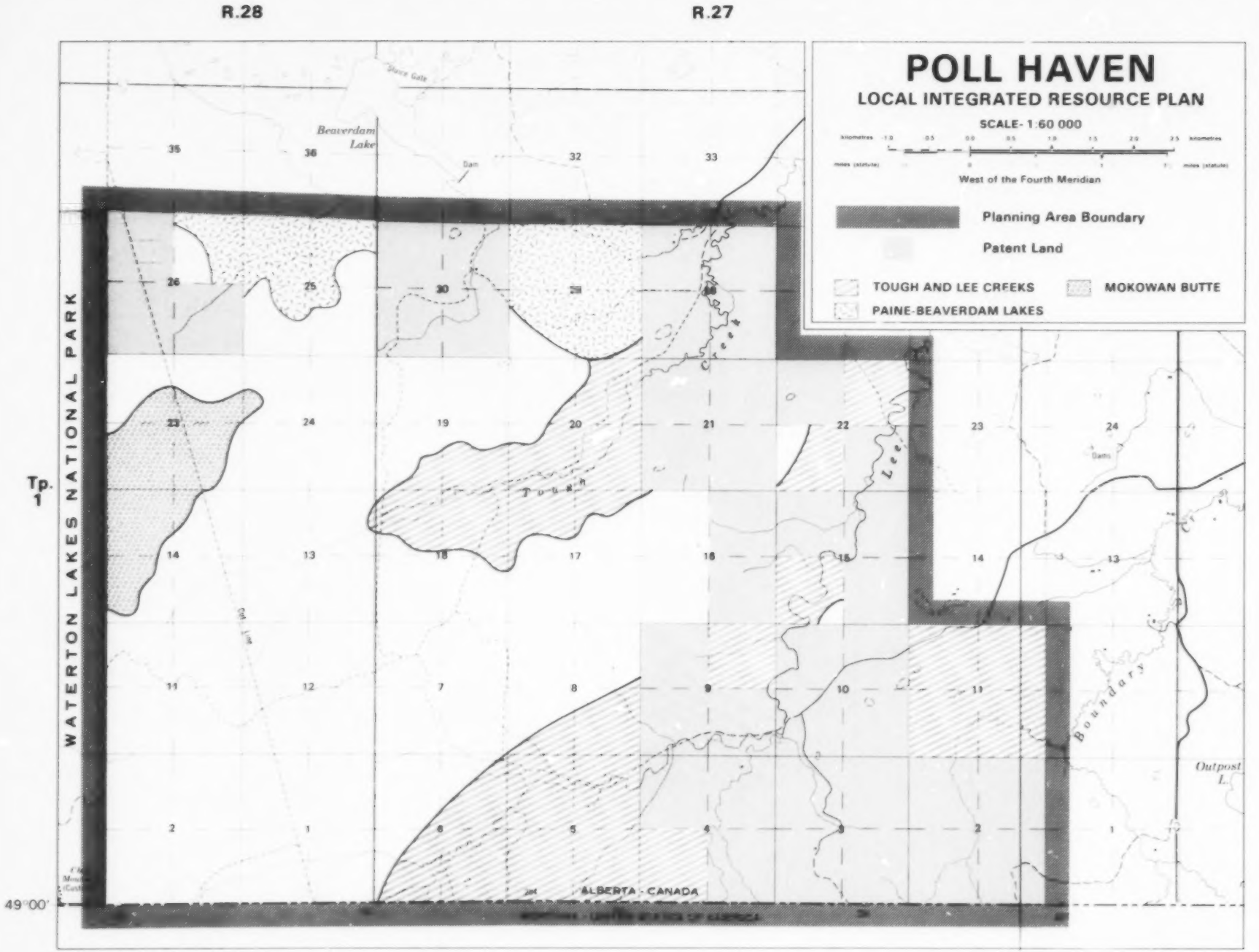

Figure 3: Areas With Significant Ecological Resources.

Guidelines

1. Management of stream fisheries will occur in accordance with Alberta's Eastern Slopes stream fishery management program. Streams are currently open to fishing from June 1 to October 31. A summary of pertinent regulations is provided in the annual guide to sport fishing regulations.

2. Fish and Wildlife Division will review operational activities and provide input through existing referral systems in accordance with fisheries habitat protection guidelines. Mitigative measures will be recommended to compensate for habitat loss, minimize siltation and enhance stream habitat.

3. Fish and Wildlife Division, in co-operation with the Alberta Forest Service and Public Lands Division, will identify water quality problems resulting from roads and stream crossings and will initiate appropriate action including road maintenance, reclamation or closure.

4. Fish and Wildlife Division should reassess Tough and Lee creeks to determine fisheries management needs, fish stocking potential, angler use levels, habitat development potential and habitat protection needs. However, this assessment has a low priority on a regional basis.

5. Reforestation and silvicultural treatment (e.g., scarification) should be done immediately after forest harvesting to avoid degradation of fisheries habitat.

6.4 Forage Resources

Discussion

Domestic grazing occurs under seven grazing leases that cover all 54.4 km^2 (21 sq. mi.) of public land in the planning area (Figure 4). Six leases, covering 13.0 km^2 (5 sq. mi.) in the White Area, provide 995 animal unit months (AUMs) of grazing. These leases are stocked to established carrying capacity. The Poll Haven Grazing Association holds a grazing lease for the remaining 41.4 km^2 (16 sq. mi.) of public land and has been allocated 1793 AUMs of grazing. The association has a maximum of 40 members with 26 members putting cattle on the community pasture in 1986. Each participating rancher was allotted from six to 29 animal units for a four-month grazing season.

Administration of the Poll Haven Community Pasture is split with 24.6 km^2 (9.5 sq. mi.) in the Green Area and 16.8 km^2 (6.5 sq. mi.) in the White Area (Figure 2). The Public Lands Division of the Department of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife manages grazing on leases in the White Area; the Alberta Forest Service of the same department is responsible for managing grazing on public land in the Green Area. For the Poll Haven Community Pasture, the agencies establish jointly the number of AUMs of domestic grazing and Public Lands Division works directly with the grazing association. Public Lands Division has identified a strong demand from members of the grazing association to increase grazing allocations. Six new applications to join the association were refused in 1984 and 1985. An inventory of range conditions in the White Area portion of the community pasture was completed for Public Lands Division in the summer of 1986, and the potential to develop an additional 157 ha (387 ac.) for tame forage was identified.

The grazing allocation for the White Area portion of the community pasture is currently 716 AUMs and the allocation for the Green Area is 1077 AUMs. Approximately 250 ha (617 ac.) of pasture have been cleared and developed within the White Area portion of the community pasture. Most pasture development includi: g clearing, breaking and seeding, occurred between 1980 and 1983. Regrowth of poplar and willow is a major problem in the improved pasture areas.

None of the public lands under grazing lease outside the community pasture are suitable for sale for agricultural development although range improvement is possible in the following areas: Section 11, NE 9, SW 15, W 1/2 16, NE 22, SW 22, Section 29, all in Township 1, Range 27, West of the 4th Meridian. The main limitations to agricultural development are high elevation and severe climate.

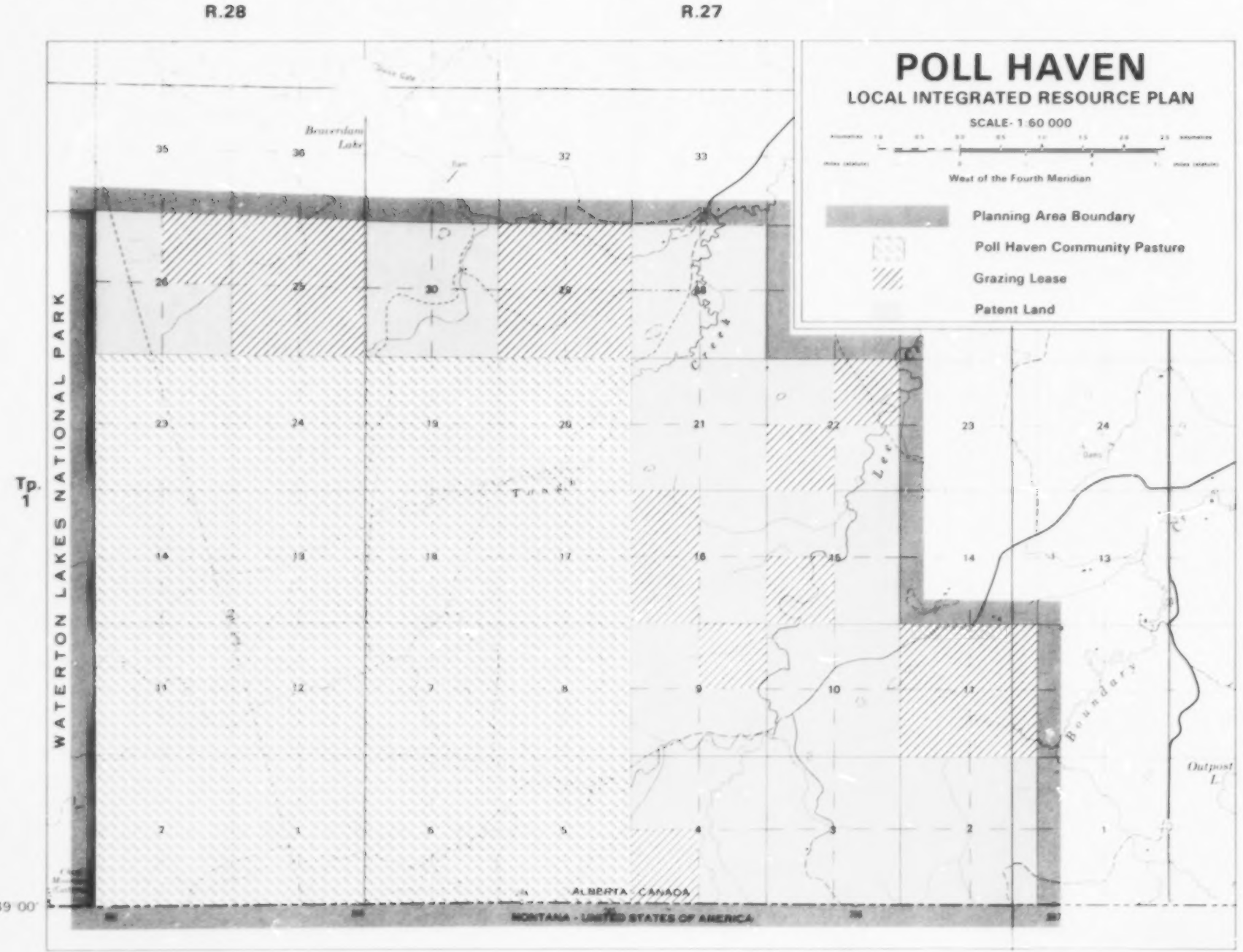

Figure 4: Grazing Dispositions.

Objectives

1. To maintain and/or increase the quality and quantity of forage resources.

2. To maintain and/or increase the level of grazing by domestic livestock while ensuring that adequate forage is available for wildlife.

   Specific components of this objective are:

   a) to maintain the current domestic livestock grazing levels of 1711 AUMs on grazing leases and the Poll Haven Community Pasture within the White Area and 1077 AUMs on the Community Pasture within the Green Area; and

   b) to increase domestic livestock grazing through range improvement and management where consistent with wildlife habitat objectives.

Guidelines

1. Range management plans will be developed for grazing leases within the White Area.

2. Opportunities for affected government agencies to have input on range development plans will be provided through the provincial government referral system.

3. The Poll Haven Community Pasture and individual grazing leases will be managed on a sustained yield basis consistent with grazing policy.

The following guidelines apply to the Poll Haven Community Pasture:

4. Grazing stocking rates will not be increased above the current 1793 AUMs until cattle distribution is improved through crossfencing and pasture rotation.

5. A range survey on the 24.6 km^2 (9.5 sq. mi.) within the Green Area will be conducted to determine range condition and carrying capacity for the area.

6. Domestic grazing will be available on an interim basis on cutblocks in the White and Green areas after timber harvesting. AUMs derived from cutblocks will not be included in the calculation of domestic grazing carrying capacity.

7. Public Lands Division will investigate the possibility of developing livestock watering sites and fencing in appropriate locations to reduce the concentration of cattle along Lee and Tough creeks.

6.5 Historical Resources

Discussion

American traders crossed the border from the Montana Territory to establish posts in Blackfoot country as early as 1869. The earliest known site in the Poll Haven planning area was established by W.H. Lee in 1872. Lee Creek bears the name of this early pioneer. A settler passing through the area in 1885 reported that Lee's cabins were in a ruinous state but were still standing. The Historic Sites Service has not attempted to locate or record the site.

The Poll Haven area was again explored in September 1886 by Charles Ora Card, the founder of the town of Cardston. As he camped at the mouth of Lee Creek, Card was impressed by the "richness of the soil, the limitless areas of luxuriously grassclad plains, the reasonable accessibility to timber and the copious streams of water." The following year, Card led about 40 Mormon settlers from Utah to the site that would become Cardston.

From 1911 to 1930, the Poll Haven area was part of the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve. In 1930, the boundary of Waterton Lakes National Park was extended to include the area. The 16 sections of the Poll Haven Community Pasture were removed from the eastern edge of Waterton Lakes National Park on July 17, 1947, and a new grazing association was formed. The 1948 annual report of the provincial Department of Lands and Mines states "The land was not considered suitable nor was it required for park development, but was of value especially as grazing and timber lands for the benefit of the

settlers in the vicinity". The Poll Haven Community Pasture was subsequently incorporated on April 7, 1948. From 1947 to the present, the Department of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife and its various predecessors have been responsible for resource management in the area.

The Historic Sites Inventory indicates that the Poll Haven area contains several sites related to early settlement in southern Alberta and suggests others may exist. However, an accurate assessment of historical resources cannot be made until more information is gathered and current information is updated.

No systematic archaeological studies have occurred in the Poll Haven area. However, site surveys along the Belly and St. Mary rivers and along the lower reaches of Lee Creek, indicate that this area of southwestern Alberta was used extensively by prehistoric people since 10 000 B.C. at least. The entire southern foothills region was prime winter habitat for plains bison in prehistoric times, and native hunters exploited this food resource using a variety of natural terrain features. Although the only known site in the planning area is an area where artifacts have been collected on the surface, numerous other sites are expected to be present.

Areas with potential for prehistoric sites are major stream systems, small lakes and isolated ridges. Stream valleys provided shelter and firewood as well as suitable places to entrap animals. Bison could have been driven into small lakes and mired, or migratory waterfowl harvested in these locations. Strategically located uplands were frequently used for game observation and grounds for construction of ceremonial structures.

The entire planning area is underlain by Late Cretaceous and Early Tertiary strata. Little geological or paleontological work has been completed, partly because of the lack of bedrock exposure in the area. If exposures are present, they most likely occur along Lee and Tough creeks. A variety of fossils could be expected in these areas.

Objectives

1. To protect historical resources (archaeological, historical, paleontological and natural) from impact associated with resource development, and conserve these resources for future generations.

2. To provide for scientific, educational and recreational use of historical resources.

Guidelines

1. Resource uses that result in land surface disturbance may require historical resource impact assessments before development. Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism may require an Historic Resource Impact Assessment for development projects that could affect bedrock deposits in areas of high palaeontological potential.

2. The Resource Management Section of the Archaeological Survey of Alberta will participate in the land use referral process by reviewing proposed development projects in areas with high historical resources potential.

6.6 Mineral Resources

Discussion

All sub-surface mineral rights in the Poll Haven planning area are vested in the provincial Crown with the exception of the S 1/2 and NW of Sec. 26, Twp. 1, Rge. 28, W4M which are freehold (i.e., private). There are currently no mineral dispositions or minerals being produced in the planning area. Exploration for petroleum and natural gas is limited to two dry wells that were drilled and abandoned in the mid-1970s. There has been no recent seismic activity in the planning area. There is hydrocarbon potential in the vicinity as Mississippian Rundle Formation natural gas is produced a few miles to the northwest in the Lookout Butte gas field. There is a possibility that Upper Cretaceous (Brazeau Formation) coal resources may underlay the area.

Objectives

1. To provide opportunities for industry to define the extent and develop or produce minerals where reserves have been proven.

2. To provide opportunities for mineral exploration in previously unexplored areas and formations.

Guidelines

1. Exploration and development of mineral resources (i.e. oil, gas, coal and industrial minerals) will occur under normal operating conditions and land use regulations.

6.7 Recreational Resources

Discussion

The Poll Haven planning area is near the communities of Mountain View and Leavitt, the town of Cardston and Waterton Lakes National Park. The Poll Haven area provides significant opportunities for extensive, dispersed recreation to residents of the surrounding area. Residents use public land in the Poll Haven area for hunting, fishing, hiking, equestrian trail riding and camping. Recreational use of off-highway vehicles, including four-wheel drive trucks, trailbikes and snowmobiles, occurs on seismic lines and trails throughout the planning area. Stream crossings on existing trails have been identified as a potential source of stream sedimentation. Organized recreational users are mainly based in Cardston and include a rod and gun club and a riding club. The Boy Scouts maintain a cabin in Section 24, Township 1, Range 28, W4M. A similar cabin in NE 5, Twp. 1, Rge. 27, W4M burned in April 1986.

The potential for developed recreation in the Poll Haven area is low. Recreational experiences available in Poll Haven differ from those in Waterton Lakes National Park and Police Outpost Provincial Park, where motorized recreational use and hunting are not allowed. The Beaverdam-Paine Lakes area in the Castle River planning area to the immediate north of Poll Haven has been zoned General Recreation and provides water-based recreational opportunities for the area. Commercial trail riding occurs in Waterton Lakes National Park and southwest of Cardston and potential for such operations has been identified in the Poll Haven planning area.

Objectives

1. To maintain the quantity and quality of recreational resources.

2. To provide low density outdoor recreational opportunities primarily for local residents. Acceptable recreational activities include but are not limited to hunting, fishing, hiking, equestrian trail riding, camping and use of off-highway vehicles including four-wheel drive trucks, trailbikes and snowmobiles.

3. To accommodate commercial trail riding operations in the planning area.

Guidelines

1. Low density, dispersed recreational use will be promoted where it is compatible with environmental conditions, demand and other existing or proposed land uses. Applications for commercial trail riding permits will be considered in accordance with the Commercial Trail Riding Policy (1978).

2. Construction of a small recreational staging area in the White Area may be considered if demand warrants. There are no plans to develop a campground in the area.

3. Large scale commercial recreational developments will not be allowed in the Poll Haven Community Pasture.

6.8 Timber Resources

Discussion

The C4 forest management unit covers 24.6 km^2 (9.5 sq. mi.) of productive forest land in the southwest portion of the planning area (Figure 2). Timber in the area is managed on a sustained yield basis. Lodgepole pine is the dominant species with lesser components of

trembling aspen and white spruce. Balsam fir and alpine fir are also present. The forest is mostly within the immature and mature age classes (between 60 and 100 years), with a disproportionately low representation of younger age classes. The coniferous annual allowable cut (AAC), which was approved in 1987, is 2300 m^3 (536 Mfbm - thousand foot board measure) based on a 15+/11 cm (i.e., base diameter/ top diameter) utilization standard. The deciduous AAC, which has not yet been approved, is 500 m^3 based on 15+/11 cm utilization.

The area has been managed as a miscellaneous timber use (MTU) area through the issuance of local timber permits. MTU areas are established to provide local residents with a timber supply. During the past five years, an estimated 1000 m^3 (223 Mfbm) of coniferous timber has been harvested annually. There is no demand, and very little is anticipated, for the deciduous timber resource.

A total of 29.8 km^2 (11.5 sq. mi.) of public land in the White Area portion of the planning area is within the CO1 forest management unit (Figure 2). The coniferous AAC for the CO1 forest management unit within the planning area is currently estimated at 1 500 m^3 (350 mFbm) based on a 13+/7 cm utilization standard. In the past, timber harvesting was conducted on a liquidation basis. Sustained yield management of coniferous species has now been implemented and will be integrated with ranching operations and wildlife resources in this part of the planning area.

A serious mountain pine beetle epidemic in the region has affected the C4 and CO1 forest management units within the Poll Haven planning area. Approximately 60 per cent of the coniferous forest covering more than 1214 ha (3000 ac.) has been infested. A detailed forest inventory and evaluation conducted in 1986 indicated salvage logging was required for heavily infested stands covering an estimated 510 ha (1260 ac.). The salvage logging operation would remove the source of infestation, reduce potential wildfire hazard and use the damaged timber resource.

Public input and consultation regarding the salvage logging operation was initiated and involved the town of Cardston, municipal district of Cardston No. 6, Waterton Lakes National Park, Glacier National Park, Poll Haven Community Pasture Grazing Association and the local public in the vicinity of the proposed operation. Input was also received from provincial government agencies with land or resource management responsibilities in the area. There are three active commercial timber permits to harvest conifer stands within the C4 and CO1 forest management units. The permits expire at the end of 1989.

Further studies of the mountain pine beetle indicate populations have decreased and the infestation is currently in an endemic state. This suggests that further salvage or sanitation operations beyond those currently prescribed may not be necessary. The mountain pine beetle population will be monitored to determine whether further treatments should be considered.

The Poll Haven planning area will be managed on a sustained yield basis. As a result of the mountain pine beetle infestation and associated salvage operations, updated timber inventories will be required to revise timber management plans for the C4 and CO1 forest management units. Local timber requirements will receive priority with surplus volumes managed on a commercial basis within the limits determined by the annual allowable cut.

The C4 and CO1 forest management units within the planning area are in the forest protection area as described in a 1979 forest fire suppression agreement between the municipal district of Cardston No. 6 and the Alberta Forest Service. The Alberta Forest Service is responsible for forest protection in the area. The planning area supports a relatively continuous forest and flash fuel complex and lacks a sufficient water supply for fire suppression. The mountain pine beetle infestation has modified the forest fuel complex such that the forest is susceptible to more intense wildfires. Domestic grazing has reduced flash fuels by varying degrees throughout the planning area. Forest fire detection is currently undertaken by the general public, the RCMP and two honourary forest guardians residing near the planning area. Aerial reconnaissance

occurs when fire hazard ratings and weather patterns indicate a high probability of fire starts.

Increased fire suppression capability is desirable considering the proximity of the area to the international border, Glacier National Park, the Blood Indian Reserve (148 A) and Waterton Lakes National Park, as well as private property within and adjacent to the planning area.

Objectives

1. To maintain a stable, healthy forest. A specific component of this objective is to protect the forest from damage or destruction by fire, insects, disease or other causes.

2. To provide forest products on a long-term, sustained yield basis to satisfy local and commercial requirements. A specific component of this objective is to maximize use of the coniferous annual allowable cut.

Guidelines

1. Forest stands damaged by the mountain pine beetle will be subject to salvage operations to reduce the wildfire hazard and minimize further damage to healthy stands. An estimated 510 ha (1260 ac.) of heavily infested forest is being salvaged under commercial timber permits.

2. The C4 forest management unit will be managed on a sustained yield basis to supply forest products to local residents and commercial operators.

3. Forested public lands that are within the CO1 forest management unit and are capable of supporting sustained yield timber production, will be managed jointly for forest and rangeland purposes, and will be withheld from sale.

4. Timber harvesting will be conducted using forest landscape management techniques applied in the Bow/Crow Forest following principles contained in the Timber Harvest Cutblock Design Manual (ENR Report No. 43-1977) and Forest Landscape Management Guidelines for Alberta (FLW Publ. No. T/125-1986).

5. Reforestation of harvested stands will occur in accordance with established reforestation policy.

6. Impacts of logging on the watershed will be minimized by ensuring adherence to operating ground rules, conducting watershed assessments before and after logging, and by following procedures established in the internal referral systems of the provincial government.

7. Timber management plans will integrate timber harvesting and reforestation with other land use activities such as range management and wildlife habitat management.

8. Forest fire suppression capabilities in the planning area will be upgraded such that initial attack resources will be allocated to respond to a wildfire as determined by forest fire pre-suppression preparedness levels.

9. Forest Protection Area Regulation (AR 414/83) under the Forest and Prairie Protection Act (RSA 1980) will be amended to include the Poll Haven planning area in the Forest Protection Area.

6.9 Water and Watershed Resources

Discussion

The Poll Haven planning area is drained by Tough, Lee and Boundary creeks as well as by two smaller, unnamed creeks. Tough Creek drains into Lee Creek to the immediate north of the planning area. Lee Creek generally flows continuously while Tough Creek is intermittent. Lee Creek is a source of domestic water for the town of Cardston and eventually flows into the St. Mary Reservoir, which supplies water for irrigation to the surrounding district. Lee Creek is also used for stock watering and angling.

Limited on-site storage and sporadic streamflow are a result of shallow soils and unconsolidated surficial material overlying the

impermeable bedrock found in the planning area. Water shortages are common in the area. Lee and Tough creeks both respond noticeably to storm events and spring runoff. Alberta Environment maintains a research and streamflow monitoring program in the area. A study done in the spring of 1982 indicated that development and use of the Poll Haven Community Pasture had negligible impact on water quality in Tough Creek. However, agricultural activity along Lee Creek between the planning area and Cardston has reduced water quality. Watershed protection and maintenance of water quality in the planning area are major priorities under the Eastern Slopes Policy.

Objectives

1. To maintain and/or improve the quality, quantity and flow regime of water resources. Specific components of this objective are:

   a) to maintain or improve, where feasible, streamflow to meet the needs of users;

   b) to maintain natural water quality, particularly suspended sediment levels; and

   c) to maintain the stability of natural stream channels.

2. To provide for the present and future use of water resources by onstream and downstream users including domestic users (particularly the town of Cardston), agricultural users, recreational users and fish and wildlife populations.

Guidelines

1. Soils will be protected from erosion associated with land use activities. The internal referral systems of the provincial government will be used to establish ground rules to minimize soil erosion.

2. Forest management activities and land clearing for range improvement will be conducted in a manner that maintains or improves water yields.

3. The Alberta Forest Service, Public Lands Division, Fish and Wildlife Division and Alberta Environment will examine jointly the feasibility of developing small water impoundments to sustain a recreational fishery, provide a water source for forest fire suppression and domestic grazing, and augment downstream water use.

6.10 Wildlife Resources

Discussion

Big game species that inhabit the Poll Haven area include white-tailed and mule deer, elk and moose. No major wintering areas are present, but moose and deer use lower elevation deciduous cover in winter. White-tailed deer winter along Lee Creek. Local ranchers have indicated that elk use the area primarily in the spring. Historically, the Poll Haven Community Pasture has been considered big game summer range. Although localized overgrazing by domestic livestock has reduced the amount of forage available to wildlife, maturation and invasion of forest cover are the primary factors limiting ungulate densities. This trend has been reversed to some extent by timber salvage operations and range improvement for cattle, although these clearings were not designed to maximize wildlife benefits. Planned timber salvage operations will further reduce forest cover in the area. The pattern of cleared areas, and forest cover and existing road access, will largely determine how well salvage operations enhance wildlife habitat.

Grizzly bears in the Poll Haven area are part of the bear population found in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE). The NCDE extends from Montana into southern Alberta and includes Glacier and Waterton Lakes national parks. The grizzlies found in Poll Haven are therefore a significant international resource. Although the Alberta government recognizes the need to maintain viable bear populations in the area, protection of grizzlies must be balanced with the need to protect the public and domestic livestock.

Grizzly bear depredation on cattle has been a long-term problem in the Poll Haven area. The number of cattle deaths in the Poll Haven Community Pasture increased significantly

between 1984 and 1987 and ranchers in the area believe grizzly bears are a significant cause of cattle mortality. Intensive control efforts applied in the area in 1986 and 1987 resulted in the removal of four and six problem bears, respectively. Incidents of bear depredation on cattle decreased significantly in 1988 because of good berry crops.

The Poll Haven area is in Wildlife Management Unit 300 in Big Game Zone 7. Hunting seasons for mule and white-tailed deer occur in November. Antlerless white-tailed deer and anterless and male moose authorizations are available on a draw basis. Special elk seasons are held in this unit from September to October, October to December, and December to March. These seasons were established to reduce elk depredation on haystacks and crops on private lands. An authorization to hunt grizzly bears is available from March to May. Within the wildlife management unit, the Poll Haven area is not a popular destination for hunters but has potential for wildlife production.

A wide variety of upland birds, furbearers, predators and smaller non-game species also occur in the area. Some trapping occurs throughout the area, although there are no registered traplines.

Objectives

1. To maintain and/or increase the number, distribution and diversity of wildlife species. A sub-objective is:

   (a) to maintain a viable grizzly bear population while recognizing the need for protection of the public and domestic livestock.

2. To maintain and/or increase the quality and quantity of wildlife habitat.

3. To maintain and/or increase opportunities for consumptive and non-consumptive use of wildlife.

Guidelines

1. Fish and Wildlife Division will continue to review operational activities and provide input through existing referral systems. Where necessary, mitigation will be recommended to compensate for habitat loss, disruption of wildlife populations or loss of recreational opportunities.

2. Fish and Wildlife Division will conduct surveys of priority species as required to assess management requirements.

3. Timber harvesting plans will be reviewed with the Alberta Forest Service to ensure the quality of ungulate range is maintained or, where possible, enhanced.

4. Range improvements should allow shrub growth for wildlife, particulary in wet areas and along the fringes of clearings.

5. Hunting regulations will be subject to the current Fish and Wildlife Division's review process. Various management techniques will be implemented as required.

6. Depredation by grizzly bears will be managed in accordance with current predator management policies. Grizzly bears will be managed in co-operation with Waterton Lakes National Park, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and Glacier National Park. Adjacent jurisdictions will be encouraged to maintain and develop grizzly bear habitat.

7. Fish and Wildlife Division should assess vegetation changes and land use practices to determine current and potential carrying capacity for wildlife.

7.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND AMENDMENT

General procedures and mechanisms for the implementation, monitoring and amendment of the Poll Haven Integrated Resource Plan are outlined in this section. A statement of program and project requirements will be contained in a supplemental implementation document.

General Implementation

The Poll Haven Integrated Resource Plan will be implemented within the existing government framework of legislation, agency responsibilities, policies and administrative mechanisms. The plan will be considered to be implemented when it is providing direction for government resource management activities and public resource use within the planning area. The direction provided in the plan for government resource management activities will be translated into existing, new or modified resource management programs, projects, operational plans and adminstrative procedures such as referral systems. The plan direction for public resource use activities within the planning area will eventually be translated into normal control mechanisms such as permits, licences and leases.

Government resource management agencies that are participating in the implementation of the Poll Haven Integrated Resource Plan will be responsible for ensuring the effective delivery of the plan. Agencies must ensure that their resource management activities are consistent with the direction contained in the plan. Each agency must also ensure that public use of those resources, for which the agency is responsible, occurs in a manner consistent with the plan.

The agencies must also deal with any conflicts or concerns that arise with respect to implementation or interpretation of any provisions of the plan. These responsibilities are outlined by subject area below.

Referral System: Participating government management agencies will ensure that existing referral systems of the Alberta government are comprehensive and encompass all affected or concerned agencies within the planning area.

Plan Monitoring: The Poll Haven Integrated Resource Plan will be reviewed annually by the Southern Regional Resource Management Committee to ensure:

(a) an assessment of the relevancy of the specified resource management objectives in light of changing conditions and new information;

(b) an assessment of resource management guidelines;

(c) an assessment of agency operational plans to ensure their consistency with the intents, objectives and guidelines contained in the Poll Haven plan; and

(d) preparation of a statement recommending amendments to the Poll Haven Integrated Resource Plan and future actions required to maintain or promote government resource management activities in the planning area.

An annual report will document changes in the plan. The report will also highlight the previous year's activities in the planning area, including the number, type and location of referrals and the conflicts or concerns that were addressed and resolved. The report will also indicate what might be expected to be accomplished in the planning area during the next year. The report may be deferred if a lack of activity or progress toward government resource management objectives within the planning area are identified.

A major plan review by the Southern Regional Resource Management Committee will occur at five-year intervals to facilitate:

(a) a comprehensive assessment of all aspects of the plan including, but not limited to, resource management objectives, zoning, the activity/zone matrix and resource management guidelines;

(b) a public review on the same basis that the public is involved in the development of new integrated resource plans; and

(c) preparation of a statement recommending amendments to the plan and future actions required to maintain or promote government resource management activities in the planning area.

A five-year report will document all amendments. Major plan reviews may be undertaken more frequently if required by major resource policy commitments or development of program initiatives.

Amendment Procedures: Changes to resource management objectives, zoning, the activity/zone matrix and resource management guidelines may require amendment to the Poll Haven Integrated Resource Plan. An amendment to the plan may be required as a result of an annual review, major five-year review, government request or as a result of a request from an individual, group or organization outside the government. Proposed amendments to the Poll Haven Integrated Resource Plan from outside the government should be made by formal application to the assistant deputy minister of the Public Lands Division, Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife. Opportunities for public review of proposed amendments to the Poll Haven Integrated Resource Plan will be provided before changes are approved by the government. Amendments that entail a major policy decision or a change to the basic intent of the plan may be forwarded to the Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife.